

VA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015; SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND VETERANS HEALTH CARE CHOICE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Committee on Rules: Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1994, the “VA Accountability Act of 2015”; and H.R. 3236, the “Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015”. The committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a structured rule for H.R. 1994. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs now printed in the bill and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule also grants a closed rule for H.R. 3236. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, and Veterans’ Affairs. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Miller of Florida, Chairman Shuster, Representatives Takano, Brown of Florida, Heck of Washington, Fincher.

EXPLORATION OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM: FROM MERCURY TO PLUTO AND BEYOND

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Exploration of the Solar System: From Mercury to Pluto and Beyond”. Testimony was heard from John Grunsfeld, Associate Administrator, Science Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Robert Pappalardo, Study Scientist, Europa Mission Con-

cept, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “A Hearing on the Federal Radionavigation Plan, H.R. 1684, the Foreign Spill Protection Act, and H.R. _____, the National Icebreaker Fund Act of 2015”. Testimony was heard from Gary C. Rasicot, Director of Marine Transportation Systems, U.S. Coast Guard; Mary E. Landry, Director of Incident Management and Preparedness, U.S. Coast Guard; Karen Van Dyke, Director of Positioning, Navigation and Timing and Spectrum Management, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, Department of Transportation; and a public witness.

RURAL HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES CREATED BY MEDICARE REGULATIONS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing to discuss rural health care disparities created by Medicare regulations. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IRAN

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing on Iran. This was a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

DYNAMIC SCORING

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine dynamic scoring, focusing on how it will affect fiscal policymaking, after receiving testimony from former Senator Phil Gramm; John L. Buckley, former Chief of Staff to the Joint Committee on Taxation, and Kevin A. Hassett, American Enterprise Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; and John W. Diamond, Rice University Baker Institute for Public Policy, Houston, Texas.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the impacts of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on United States interests and the military balance in the Middle East, 9:45 a.m., SD–G50.

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine best practices at public and private shipyards, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine the role of bankruptcy reform in addressing too-big-to-fail, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine wireless broadband and the future of spectrum policy, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to continue consideration of an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, S. 133, to approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin in the public interest and the interest of the United States, S. 145, to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown, S. 146, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations, S. 329, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 403, to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, S. 521, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Station in Baltimore, Maryland, S. 583, to establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, S. 593, to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets, S. 610, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland and for other purposes, S. 720, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, S. 873, to designate the wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area, S. 1103, to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam, S. 1104, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gibson Dam, S. 1240, to designate the Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio Wilderness Areas in the State of New Mexico, S. 1305, to amend the Colorado River Storage Project Act to authorize the use of the active capacity of the

Fontenelle Reservoir, S. 1483, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the James K. Polk Home in Columbia, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System, S. 1694, to amend Public Law 103-434 to authorize Phase III of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project for the purposes of improving water management in the Yakima River basin, and an original bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider the nominations of Vanessa Lorraine Allen Sutherland, of Virginia, to be Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of five years, Kristen Marie Kulinowski, of New York, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of five years, Gregory Guy Nadeau, of Maine, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, and Eric Martin Satz, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2018, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider S. 284, to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, S. 1632, to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram, an original bill entitled, "Afghanistan Accountability Act", and the nominations of Michele Thoren Bond, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Consular Affairs), and Sarah Elizabeth Mendelson, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, both of the District of Columbia, Sheila Gwaltney, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, Perry L. Holloway, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Laura Farnsworth Dogu, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Nicaragua, Peter F. Mulrean, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti, Paul Wayne Jones, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, Gayle Smith, of Ohio, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, Kathleen Ann Doherty, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, James Desmond Melville, Jr., of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia, Samuel D. Heins, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, all of the Department of State, and routine lists in the Foreign Service; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, to hold hearings to examine the financial crisis in Greece, focusing on implications and lessons learned, 2 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on combating campus sexual assault, 9 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, “Department of Homeland Security Border Security Metrics Act of 2015”, an original bill entitled, “Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2015”, an original bill entitled, “EINSTEIN Act of 2015”, S. 1073, to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, an original bill entitled, “Quarterly Financial Reporting Reauthorization Act of 2015”, S. 1607, to affirm the authority of the President to require independent regulatory agencies to comply with regulatory analysis requirements applicable to executive agencies, S. 1526, to amend title 10 and title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, to amend title 31 and 41, United States Code, to improve the payment protections available to construction contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers for work performed, S. 1820, to require agencies to publish an advance notice of proposed rule making for major rules, S. 1817, to improve the effectiveness of major rules in accomplishing their regulatory objectives by promoting retrospective review, S. 1808, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, S. 779, to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency, S. Res. 104, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the success of Operation Streamline and the importance of prosecuting first time illegal border crossers, S. 708, to establish an independent advisory committee to review certain regulations, S. 1170, to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, H.R. 1531, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures, an original bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 West 2nd Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as the “Lieutenant Colonel James ‘Maggie’ Megellas Post Office”, S. 1596, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2082 Stringtown Road in Grove City, Ohio, as the “Specialist Joseph W. Riley Post Office Building”, and the nomination of Denise Turner Roth, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of General Services, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 383, to provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and S. 732, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the In-

terior to take land into trust for Indian tribes, to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the true costs of alcohol and drug abuse in Native communities, 2:15 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts, to hold hearings to examine IRS targeting, focusing on progress of agency reforms and congressional options, 2 p.m., SD-106.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: business meeting to consider S. 1400, to amend the Small Business Act to direct the task force of the Office of Veterans Business Development to provide access to and manage the distribution of excess or surplus property to veteran-owned small businesses, S. 1756, to help small businesses take advantage of energy efficiency, S. 1857, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program, S. 1866, to establish the veterans’ business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, an original bill entitled, “A Sense of the Committee on the Small Business Tax Compliance Relief Act of 2015”, and an original bill entitled, “Veterans Entrepreneurial Transition Act of 2015”, Time to be announced, S-216, Capitol.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: to hold hearings to examine ending veteran homelessness, 2:30 p.m., SR-418.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Dodd-Frank Turns Five: Assessing the Progress of Global Derivatives Reforms”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Potential Implications in the Region of the Iran Deal”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 985, “Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015”; H.R. 3154, “E-Warranty Act of 2015”; H.R. 1344, “Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2015”; H.R. 1462, “Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015”; H.R. 1725, “National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Authorization Act of 2015”; and H.R. 2820, “Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 766, the “Financial Institution Customer Protection Act of 2015”; H.R. 1210, the “Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act”; H.R. 1317, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes; H.R. 1553, the “Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act of 2015”; H.R. 1737, the “Reforming CFPB Indirect Auto Financing Guidance Act”; H.R. 1839, the “Reforming Access for Investments in Startup Enterprises Act of 2015”; H.R. 1941, the “Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act”; H.R. 2091, the “Child Support Assistance Act of 2015”; H.R. 2243, the “Equity in Government Compensation Act of 2015”; H.R. 2643, the “State Licensing Efficiency Act of 2015”; H.R. 2912,

the “Centennial Monetary Commission Act of 2015”; H.R. 3032, the “Securities and Exchange Commission Reporting Modernization Act”; H.R. 3189, the “Fed Oversight Reform and Modernization Act of 2015”; and H.R. 3192, the “Homebuyers Assistance Act” (continued), 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Women Under ISIS Rule: From Brutality to Recruitment”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled “Threats to Press Freedom in the Americas”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Aviation Security Challenges: Is TSA ready for the threats of today?”, 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled “Internet of Things”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Federal Agencies’ Selective Enforcement of ESA Consultation”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “EPA Mismanagement, Part II”, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Information Technology; and Subcommittee on Government Operations, joint hearing entitled “DATA Act Implementation”, 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “A Review of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Licensing Process”, 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.